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Bekaert ECD Solar Systems Announces a New UNI-SOLAR(R) Product

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TROY, Mich., May 3 /PRNewswire/ -- Bekaert ECD Solar Systems LLC, a joint venture of United Solar Systems Corp. (United Solar) and N.V. Bekaert S.A. (Bekaert), announced today the introduction of the Field Applied Flexible Roofing Laminate, a new UNI-SOLAR(R) product. This solar electric roofing laminate simplifies the solar roofing installation process, while utilizing the same unique Triple Junction Technology found in all Bekaert ECD Solar Systems products which was originally developed by United Solar and Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. (ECD) (Nasdaq: ENER). United Solar is the world leader in thin- film amorphous solar electric cells. ECD and United Solar have pioneered, developed and hold basic patents covering the continuous roll-to- roll manufacturing of thin-film amorphous silicon alloy multi-junction solar cells and related products, including flexible solar battery chargers, UNI- POWER framed power modules, UNI-KIT Lighting Systems, UNI-PAC portable solar chargers and UNI-SOLAR(R) award-wining Roofing Shingles.

Traditionally, the UNI-SOLAR(R) proprietary solar electric laminate has been factory-bonded to a metal roof pan. Now with a special factory- installed, rubberized, asphalt-bonding agent on the back of the

laminate, this can be done in the field. The laminate is designed to be bonded to a 16-inch wide, flat Galvalume(R) metal roof pan. A rugged, weatherproof junction box can be field applied on the top of the finished product.

The field application of this product increases the uses for solar roofing, with an easy installation process. This laminate will be provided in a roll-shippable form, which decreases the shipping costs dramatically over other solar electric modules used in roofing applications.

These solar electric roofing laminates are appropriate for a wide variety of applications, from single-module solar home systems to large village hybrids, or grid-connected installations. Available are 64 and 128-watt laminates, which are UL pending. These unique solar electric laminates are flexible, rugged and lightweight and offer significant advantages over conventional solar panels in providing more energy per rated watt under normal outdoor conditions.

Approximately 34 states in the USA have passed regulatory policies and offer programs for installing solar energy on residential and commercial buildings.

Bekaert, the worldwide leading manufacturer of steel wire, steel wire products and steel cord, is a fast-growing manufacturer of advanced materials. Its market and technological leadership is based on metal forming and a wide range of coating technologies. Bekaert is a worldwide company with over 70 production centers and a workforce of 17,000 people. Bekaert's web site address is http:// www.bekaert.com .

ECD is a leader in the synthesis of new materials and the development of advanced production technology and innovative products. It has pioneered and developed enabling technologies leading to new products and production processes based on amorphous, disordered and related materials, with an emphasis on alternative energy and advanced information technologies. ECD's web site address is http://www.ovonic.com .

For more information on the new Field Applied Roofing Laminate or other UNI-SOLAR product information, please contact Bekaert ECD Solar Systems LLC, or visit our website at http://www.uni-solar.com .

This release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Safe Harbor Provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are based on assumptions which United Solar, Bekaert and ECD, as of the date of this release, believe to be reasonable and appropriate. The parties caution, however, that the actual facts and conditions that may exist in the future could vary materially from the assumed facts and conditions upon which such forward-looking statements are based. SOURCE Bekaert ECD Solar Systems LLC

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